Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Site Number: 18PR496 **Site Name:** Area P-2B,Site A

Other name(s)

Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Early-mid 18th century overseer or slave quarter site, 20th century barn, Early Archaic short-term camp

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11 SCS soil & sediment code BaA,BaB

Latitude 38.6910 Longitude -76.9689 Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal Terrestrial site ☑ Underwater site ☐

Elevation m Site slope 0-5% Ethnobotany profile available ☐ Maritime site ☐

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Topography

Floodplain	☐	High terrace	☐
Hilltop/bluff	☐	Rockshelter/ cave	☐
Interior flat	☐	Hillslope	☐
Upland flat	☑	Unknown	☐
Ridgetop	☐	Other	☐
Terrace	☐		
Low terrace	☐		

Ownership

Private	☑
Federal	☐
State of MD	☐
Regional/ county/city	☐
Unknown	☐

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Pisca

Saltwater		Freshwater	
Ocean	☐	Stream/river	☑
Estuary/tidal river	☐	Swamp	☐
Tidewater/marsh	☐	Lake or pond	☐
		Spring	☐

Minimum distance to water is 214 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site		Woodland site		Contact period site		ca. 1820 - 1860	Y
Archaic site		MD Adena		ca. 1630 - 1675		ca. 1860 - 1900	Y
Early archaic	Y	Early woodland		ca. 1675 - 1720	Y	ca. 1900 - 1930	Y
MIddle archaic		Mid. woodland		ca. 1720 - 1780	Y	Post 1930	Y
Late archaic		Late woodland		ca. 1780 - 1820	Y		

Unknown prehistoric context Y Unknown historic context Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American		Asian American	
African American	Y	Unknown	
Anglo-American	Y	Other	
Hispanic			

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

Multi-component	☐	Misc. ceremonial	☐
Village	☐	Rock art	☐
Hamlet	☐	Shell midden	☐
Base camp	☐	STU/lithic scatter	☑
Rockshelter/cave	☐	Quarry/extraction	☐
Earthen mound	☐	Fish weir	☐
Cairn	☐	Production area	☑
Burial area	☐	Unknown	☐

Other context ☐

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic	☑	Furnace/forge	☐	**Military**	☐	Post-in-ground	☐
Homestead	☐	Other	☐	Battlefield	☐	Frame-built	☑
Farmstead	☐	**Transportation**	☐	Fortification	☐	Masonry	☐
Mansion	☐	Canal-related	☐	Encampment	☐	Other structure	☐
Plantation	☑	Road/railroad	☐	**Townsite**	☐	**Slave related**	☑
Row/townhome	☐	Wharf/landing	☐	**Religious**	☐	**Non-domestic agri**	☐
Cellar	☐	Maritime-related	☐	Church/mtg house	☐	**Recreational**	☐
Privy	☐	Bridge	☐	Ch support bldg	☐	**Midden/dump**	☐
Industrial	☐	Ford	☐	**Burial area**	☐	**Artifact scatter**	☑
Mining-related	☐	**Educational**	☐	Cemetery	☐	**Spring or well**	☐
Quarry-related	☐	**Commercial**	☐	Sepulchre	☐	**Unknown**	☐
Mill	☐	Trading post	☐	Isolated burial	☐	**Other context**	☐
Black/metalsmith	☐	Store	☐	**Bldg or foundation**	☑		
		Tavern/inn	☐	Possible Structure	☐		

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples		Soil samples taken	N
Flotation samples taken	N	Other samples taken	

Historic context samples		Soil samples taken	N
Flotation samples taken	N	Other samples taken	

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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types

Clovis		Koens-Crispin	
Hardaway-Dalton		Perkiomen	
Palmer		Susquehana	
Kirk (notch)		Vernon	
Kirk (stem)		Piscataway	
Le Croy		Calvert	
Morrow Mntn		Selby Bay	
Guilford		Jacks Rf (notch)	
Brewerton		Jacks Rf (pent)	
Otter Creek		Madison/Potomac	
		Levanna	

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek		Popes Creek		Shepard		Keyser	
Dames Qtr		Coulbourn		Townsend		Yeocomico	
Selden Island		Watson		Minguannan		Monongahela	
Accokeek		Mockley		Sullivan Cove		Susquehannock	
Wolfe Neck		Clemson Island		Shenks Ferry			
Vinette		Page		Moyaone			
				Potomac Crk			

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone		Staffordshire	
Astbury		Jackfield		Tin Glazed	13
Borderware		Mn Mottled	7	Whiteware	2
Buckley	8	North Devon		**Porcelain**	
Creamware		Pearlware			

Stoneware

English Brown	
Eng Dry-bodied	
Nottingham	
Rhenish	12
Wt Salt-glazed	12

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts

Flaked stone	81	Other fired clay	
Ground stone		Human remain(s)	☐
Stone bowls		Modified faunal	
Fire-cracked rock		Unmod faunal	
Other lithics (all)		Oyster shell	☐
Ceramics (all)		Floral material	☐
Rimsherds		Uncommon Obj.	
		Other ☐	

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)		Storage/trash pit	☐
Midden	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Shell midden	☐	Ossuary	☐
Postholes/molds	☐	Unknown	☐
House pattern(s)	☐	Other	☐
Palisade(s)	☐		
Hearth(s)	☐		
Lithic reduc area	☐		

Lithic Material

Fer quartzite	☐	Sil sandstone	☐		
Jasper	☐	Chalcedony	☐	European flint	☐
Chert	☑	Ironstone	☐	Basalt	☐
Rhyolite	☐	Argilite	☐	Unknown	☐
Quartz	☑	Steatite	☐	Other	☐
Quartzite	☑	Sandstone	☑		

☐ **Dated features present at site**

Historic Artifacts

Tobacco related	199		
Pottery (all)	112	Activity item(s)	2
Glass (all)	130	Human remain(s)	☐
Architectural	363	Faunal material	☑
Furniture		Misc. kitchen	14
Arms		Floral material	☑
Clothing		Misc.	45
Personal items		Other ☐	

Historic Features

Const feature	☐	Privy/outhouse	☐	Depression/mound	☐
Foundation	☐	Well/cistern	☐	Burial(s)	☐
Cellar hole/cellar	☐	Trash pit/dump	☐	Railroad bed	☐
Hearth/chimney	☐	Sheet midden	☐	Earthworks	☐
Postholes/molds	☑	Planting feature	☑	Mill raceway	☐
Paling ditch/fence	☐	Road/walkway	☐	Wheel pit	☐

Unknown	☑
Other	☐

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1:	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 2:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 3:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability
Sample 4:	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 5:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 6:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability
Sample 7:	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 8:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability	**Sample 9:**	+/-	years BP	Reliability

☐ **Additional radiocarbon results available**

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Prehistoric ☑ Historic ☑ Unknown ☐

Brief Description: Early-mid 18th century overseer or slave quarter site, 20th century barn, Early Archaic short-term camp

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18PR496 appears to be the remains of an Early-mid 18th century overseer or slave quarter site located near the village of Piscataway in southern Prince George's County, Maryland. Also present at the site are the remains of a 20th century barn and remnants of an Early Archaic short-term camp. The site is situated in a fallow agricultural field (formerly grown in squash) south of an unnamed, intermittent tributary to Piscataway Creek. The northern portion of the site slopes downward to a wooded wetland area. An unpaved farm road is located in the southern portion of the site. Aside from the mid 20th century barn located in the southwest portion of the site, no structures or visible foundations are located within the site area. Soils at the site are Beltsville silt loams.

Archeological attention was first paid to the site in 1993, when a Phase I archeological survey was conducted at the site and in the surrounding area. The survey was part of a long-term residential housing development project on a large tract known as the "Bailey Property". The 878 acre development site is adjacent to the historic village of Piscataway. An archeological survey of the development area was required prior to obtaining a grading permit for a new access road, as required by the Prince George's County Planning Board. An archeological survey, as well as evaluation of standing structures on the property was requested by the Maryland Historical Trust as a condition of approval for a wetlands permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The Phase I survey identified 18PR496 as a historic domestic site dating to before 1750. The site boundaries as mapped in the Phase I report enclosed an area of approximately 2,505 square meters (0.6 acres). Phase I investigation within and in the vicinity of 18PR496 included both transect surface collection and shovel test pits (STPs). The surface collection transects were placed 20 meters apart, with collections made from three meter diameter areas spaced at 10 meter intervals along these transects. Five surface collection locations yielded artifacts, including 6 historic artifacts and 1 prehistoric artifact. Following the surface collection, 39 STPs were excavated at a 10 meter interval to examine the stratigraphy within the site and refine the site boundaries. A total of 45 historic artifacts and 2 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the STPs. One more prehistoric artifact and one more historic artifact were collected from the surface during the shovel testing.

The full Phase I historic assemblage consisted of 12 architectural artifacts (2 pieces of brick, 1 fragment of window glass, 7 hand-wrought rosehead nails, and 2 unidentified nails), 26 kitchen-related artifacts (1 tin-enamelled earthenware sherd, 4 Staffordshire manganese-mottled sherds, 1 other manganese-mottled sherd, 1 "Ralph Shaw" stoneware sherd, 5 slipware sherds, 6 redware sherds, 1 early white stoneware sherd, 1 imported gray stoneware sherd, 4 dark green bottle glass fragments, 1 piece of machine-made bottle glass, and 1 unidentified bottle glass shard), and 14 tobacco-related artifacts (5 ball clay tobacco pipe bowls and 9 pipe stems). In addition to the historic artifact, four unmodified quartz flakes were collected during Phase I work. The Phase I survey suggested that the site was primarily an 18th century domestic occupation with a dispersed distribution of lithic flakes indicating isolated prehistoric activities took place on the site as well.

The Phase I researchers recommended that further investigations be conducted to evaluate the significance of 18PR496 based on the site's potential to contribute substantive information on 18th century domestic life in Prince George's County. Researchers returned to the site in 1997 to conduct Phase II testing as part of the same housing development project. Methods for the Phase II investigation of 18PR496 included a controlled surface collection (within the agricultural field) and shovel test pits (within the vegetated areas) followed by the excavation of 1 X 1 meter stratigraphic test units. The extent and placement of Phase II investigations was based on a review of the results of the Phase I survey.

Efforts were made at the outset of the Phase II investigation to reestablish the provenience-control grid used during the Phase I investigation. However, the metric grid established for the 1995 Phase I could not be recreated at the outset of Phase II work because the datum was located within a plowed area and had been destroyed by 2 years of plowing. Thus, a new metric grid oriented to true north was established for provenience control during the Phase II investigations.

Controlled surface collection of a 0.8 acre portion of the agricultural field including 18PR496 was accomplished in May and June 1997. The field had been plowed, disked, and planted with squash in early May. Following sufficient rainfall, all artifacts visible on the disked surface were collected in contiguous 3 meter square provenience units. STPs were used during the Phase II evaluation of 18PR496 in order to define the site boundaries and the site's internal structure. Given the close-interval sample of STPs excavated within the plowed portion of the site, no further STPs were excavated in the plowed area. However, neither the Phase I surface collection and STP data nor the Phase II controlled surface collection provided a clear definition of the southeastern limit of the site. Thus, 19STPs were excavated within a grassy area southeast of the Phase I site boundary. Shovel test pits were excavated at 10-meter intervals and each was 35 to 40 cm in diameter. STPs were excavated in natural stratigraphic layers. Excavation of STPs was stopped at a depth 10 cm below where cultural remains were expected or at the maximum practical depth, generally more than 1 meter below the modern ground surface. Measured drawings were made of all STP profiles and all excavated soil was screened through hardware cloth.

Stratigraphic test units were then excavated to evaluate the stratigraphic integrity of the site, to obtain a sample of artifacts and features from the activity or activities represented at the site, and to test the internal variability of the site. Test units were 1 meter square and were excavated by recognizable soil layers in 10 cm horizontal levels, when layers were thicker than 10 centimeters. The exception to this practice was excavation of any plowzone, which was removed as a single layer that was not subdivided into 10 cm arbitrary horizontal levels. Excavation of test units generally continued to 10 cm below the lowest level where cultural remains were expected. After completion of each stratigraphic excavation unit, at least one wall of the unit was trowelled, cleaned, photographed, and had a measured drawing made. All excavated soil was screened through hardware cloth. When soil anomalies with any possibility of being cultural features were encountered, they were photographed, then drawn and mapped in plan view before being sectioned. Generally, half of the anomaly was removed, which enabled any internal stratification to be observed. However, during the Phase II testing no anomalies were determined to be of cultural origin.

Test unit placement focused on those areas within the site in which a high density of artifacts had been identified. Low density areas were also sampled. The number of test units was based on a preliminary analysis of the information from Phase I and Phase II STPs. In total, 7 stratigraphic test units were placed within 18PR496.

In total, 63 prehistoric artifacts were collected during the Phase II investigations. The prehistoric artifacts are predominantly waste material from stone tool production and/or maintenance, although 3 formal stone tools were also recovered. The only temporally diagnostic artifact recovered was a bifurcate-base point. This complete quartz point fits the description of the St. Albans type A. The complete Phase II prehistoric assemblage included the St. Albans point, 2 other bifaces, 5 cores, 17 flakes, 37 fragments of shatter, and 5 pieces of "blocky" shatter. All 3 lithic raw materials (quartz, quartzite, and chert) represented

in this collection could have been obtained from local gravels. Among the debitage, 56% of the pieces have retained cortex. This percentage of cortex implies that initial tool production was a more prevalent activity on this site than tool resharpening and rehafting.

A light scatter of prehistoric artifacts was found across the entire site, while a concentration of prehistoric artifacts is evident in the central portion of the site. The St. Albans point, one of the bifaces, all 5 of the cores, and most of the chert debitage were recovered from the central portion of the site. It appears that this landform was used intermittently by prehistoric peoples, with a somewhat more intensive use of the central portion of the site during the Early Archaic period.

In total, 657 historic artifacts were recovered from 18PR496 during Phase II testing. This collection includes the diversity expected on a domestic site: ceramics, glass, nails, hardware, animal bones, and personal items. The Phase II historic assemblage included 296 architectural objects (254 pieces of brick, 3 wrought nails, 38 unidentified nails, and 1 piece of window glass), 210 kitchen-related artifacts (9 tin-glazed earthenware sherds, 9 combed slipware sherds, 2 whiteware sherds, 3 Buckley sherds, 6 white salt-glazed stoneware sherds, 5 Rhenish Grey Stoneware sherds, 82 other ceramics, 39 dark green hand-blown bottle glass shards, 27 machine-made bottle glass fragments, 21 other pieces of bottle glass, 1 animal bone, and 6 pieces of shell), 112 tobacco-related items (white clay pipe bowl and stem fragments), and 39 miscellaneous objects (6 pieces of plastic, 1 fragment of slag, and 32 pieces of metal). The historic artifacts possess manufacturing date ranges from the 17th century to the present, with date ranges of the most diagnostic ceramic types falling between 1720 and 1775.

No historic features were encountered during the course of Phase II testing. However, the presence of a structure or structures here is suggested by the significant architectural assemblage. The distribution of the architecturally related artifacts is suggestive of structure locations. All of the wrought nails were recovered from 5 proveniences in the center of the site. Proveniences with artifact densities are also clustered in the same area. Other nails from this area and to the south were too corroded to identify manufacturing technique. Brick and nails are also present across the rest of the site, although an area clear of bricks and nails can be seen immediately to the west of the wrought nail concentration. The differential distribution of architectural artifacts and the clustering of relatively well-preserved wrought nails within one section of the site indicates possible 18th century structure locations.

Horizontal patterning is also present in the distribution of domestic artifacts. Early ceramics, dark olive green bottle glass, and pipe stems are present across the entire site except the southeast edge. Some small clear areas can be seen within the controlled surface collection area, although domestic artifacts are present within most of the area clear of architectural artifacts. Proveniences with high domestic artifact densities are clustered in the center of the site, where the wrought nails are also clustered. Half of the pipe stems were recovered from 3 test units within this area. Overall, the distribution of artifacts indicates that 18PR496 retains an integrity of horizontal patterning.

Based on these findings, researchers returned to the site in 2003, when a Phase III data recovery project was conducted as part of the same housing development work. Phase III investigations of the site included archival investigation, the excavation of 15 additional STPs and 12 mechanical trenches. A total of 245 artifacts was recovered, including both prehistoric and historic artifacts; however, roughly 96 % of the artifacts were historic. Numerous soil stains were identified during trench excavation, including natural features such as rodent burrows and decayed tree roots, as well as cultural features such as a Phase II test unit and historic postmolds. A summary of the archival research is followed by a discussion of the Phase III fieldwork results.

Site 18PR496 is believed to be located near the southern boundary of a 17th century patent called “Hazard”, or alternatively, may have been on a tract called “Leith”. The tract called Leith was patented in 1686 by James Moore and by 1739 was owned by Catherine Plasay, the local innkeeper. By 1704 Hazard was patented by Moses Jones and William Hutcheson, though it appears that only Moses Jones and his family dwelled on the property. Jones was a middling planter married to Elizabeth Jenkins Jones (who later married Edward Edelen). In 1705 Moses willed his portion of Hazard and a dwelling house (occupied by his siblings) on the nearby “Thomas His Chance” tract to his son John Jones. It appears that John settled on the Hazard tract while relatives continued to live in the other dwelling. After John’s death, his son John Jones inherited the Hazard property, as well as a portion of another tract called “Partnership”. In 1748 Catherine Plasay took ownership of the Jones’ portion of Hazard.

Plasay retained the land until 1760 when she sold 9 tracts, encompassing over 475 acres, to John Baynes. According to the 1776 census, his household included himself, his wife, and 31 enslaved people. A small number of these slaves likely served in domestic roles, while most of Baynes’ slaves undoubtedly worked in the fields throughout Baynes’ land holdings. John Baynes transferred the land to his son Joseph Noble Baynes when he returned to England sometime in the late 18th century. By 1790, Joseph Baynes’ household included white men and women as well as 88 enslaved individuals. Baynes resided in a house located within the village of Piscataway and farmed his holdings with his enslaved workforce, which by 1798 included 100 individuals. After his death in 1805 the land passed to a Philip Stuart, the husband of one of Baynes’ nieces, who resided in Charles County. The land, and the 60 to 70 slaves on it, were managed by overseers or a general plantation manager until Stuart’s death in 1830. Since no structures are represented on historic maps in the location of 18PR496, it is thought that domestic remains at the site (recovered during Phase I, II, and ultimately Phase III work) could be representative of a subordinate dwelling (e.g., slave, servant, or overseer habitation) related to the John Jones, Catherine Plasay, and/or John Baynes ownerships during the 18th century.

Upon Stuart’s death in 1830, the property was divided among his 5 children. At this point it becomes difficult to track the precise land parcels and their disposition. It appears that the enslaved population was sold and relocated at that time as none of the tax assessments for Stuart’s children indicate ownership of slaves. Stuart’s will provided for only one emancipation. The property appears to have been owned by members of the Edelen family, passing to Joseph B. Edelen by 1851. Joseph was a middling planter who had been living on land in the Piscataway area for several years prior. Tax assessments and census records reveal Edelen owned 12 slaves up to Emancipation. An 1861 map and an 1878 map depict Joseph B. Edelen’s residence to the southeast of Site 18PR496.

In the 1870s, a suit was filed against Joseph B. Edelen by William Tuck, a lawyer that had supervised the sale of the property to Edelen by one of his relatives. While the details of the suit are not clear, the court found in favor of Tuck and order that the land be transferred to Tuck. The property was divided into 3 lots in 1885 when Joseph B. Edelen’s widow, Clara E. Edelen, brought suit against Tuck and received a roughly 103-acre parcel which included Edelen’s residence. Tuck retained roughly 271 acres, divided among 2 lots, which eventually passed to his heirs. In 1914, William Morgan acquired the title to all 3 lots from the Tuck and Edelen heirs. Morgan sold it in 1926 to the Maryland Tobacco Planters Company, and it was purchased by the present owners in 1930.

The Phase III fieldwork began with setting the site datum and gridding for excavation work. The Phase III datum was established in the approximate area of the Phase II datum (the rebar datum from the Phase II studies could not be located). The location of a Phase II test unit in one of the tranches ultimately verified that the Phase III grid was displaced less than 10 cm off the Phase II grid. STPs were then excavated at 15 meter intervals across the site in order to

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identify artifact concentrations and reestablish site boundaries.

Based on the results of the STP testing, as well as the results of the Phase II investigations, 12 mechanical trenches were excavated in areas of artifact concentrations. Trenches varied in size considerably. A total of 489 square meters was excavated across the site. No trenching or testing was conducted within the 20th century barn due to extensive disturbance from animal burrowing. Soil was removed with a backhoe and gradall with an attached smooth-edge bucket. Once the soil was removed to just above subsoil, it was shovel-scraped in order to better expose and define cultural features. The locations of features and related observations were recorded on a map of the project area. Possible features identified at the site were mapped and photographed in both plan and profile views, and narrative notes were taken. Large features were sampled (a minimum excavation sample of 25% was taken). Well-defined features were bisected unless very large, and then they were quartered or otherwise sub-sampled for better data control. Both STPs and features were excavated in 10 cm increments within natural strata. All field data was recorded on standard field forms and in general field notes. All excavated feature soils were screened through hardware cloth for uniform recovery of artifacts. No flotation analysis of feature matrix for faunal or floral data was included.

Eleven features were identified during the Phase III data recovery investigations and include 3 historic postmolds, 1 historic features of unknown function, a 20th century feature of unknown function (probably a farming disturbance) and six non-cultural features (evidence of bioturbation). While 3 historic postmolds were identified, no associated postholes were observed during excavations of the postmolds. A Phase II test unit was also identified in one of the trenches, but was not assigned a feature number.

A total of 245 artifacts was recovered from Site 18PR496 during Phase III investigations, including 235 historic artifacts and 10 prehistoric artifacts. The Phase III prehistoric assemblage consisted of 6 flakes and 4 pieces of shatter. No diagnostic artifacts were recovered during the Phase III investigations. This material does not significantly alter the interpretive findings from earlier studies of the prehistoric assemblage at 18PR496.The site likely served as a short-term camp during the Early Archaic period (based on the recovery of the single St. Albans point during Phase II work), but little else can be determined. The site's prehistoric component does not appear to be a significant archeological resource.

A total of 235 historic artifacts was recovered from Site 18PR496 during the Phase III investigations. These include 2 activity items (1 iron bolt, 1 pin flag), 55 architectural artifacts (23 brick fragments, 1 piece of window glass, 1 wire nail, 3 wrought nails, and 27 unidentified nails), 99 kitchen-related objects (3 tin-glazed earthenware sherds, 6 slipware sherds, 2 Staffordshire manganese-mottled sherds, 5 Buckley sherds, 7 Rhenish gray stoneware sherds, 6 white salt-glazed stoneware sherds, 1 slip-dipped stoneware sherd, 28 other ceramics, 3 wine bottle fragments, 9 other bottle shards, 22 miscellaneous kitchen glass fragments, 3 animal bones, and 4 oyster shell pieces), 73 tobacco-related artifacts (62 pipe stem fragments, 11 pipe bowl fragments), and 6 miscellaneous items (1 piece of coal, 2 pieces of flagging tape, an unidentified iron fragment, and 2 objects of an unidentified material).

Historic archeological remains at 18PR496 may represent a subordinate or outlying domestic site (such as an overseer's house or slave dwelling) associated with the Jones, Plasay, and/or Baynes occupations. As noted previously, only four historic features (three postmolds and a historic feature of unknown function) and a fairly small domestic assemblage were identified in all stages of research at 18PR496. The postmolds do not form a pattern and are not of sufficient size or depth to likely relate to a substantial structure. The artifacts suggest the site was occupied primarily from the early to mid 18th century. No horizontal artifact patterning was evident during Phase III work. The moderate quantity of artifacts and paucity of features, however, indicate the site was not intensively occupied and was not likely a planter's dwelling site.

The site assemblage includes high quantities of architectural, kitchen, and tobacco-related artifacts, with only very small quantities of other artifact types recovered. The architectural group consists mostly of brick and wrought nails. The lack of foundations indicates a brick pier or post-in-ground structure (possibly with a brick chimney) was present on site. The lack of any foundations or postmold patterns, however, presents difficulties in determining construction methods or an exact structure location. Since the site has been heavily plowed (and eroded) for decades, it is possible that all structural evidence has been destroyed. A 20th Century tobacco barn is located on the site and may have further destroyed any structural remains.

The kitchen group contains wares typical of the early to mid 18th century. The majority of ceramics (85%) were utilitarian wares, further suggesting that this was not a planter site. Faunal remains accounted for only 1% of the assemblage from 18PR496, possibly suggesting that food preparation was no a predominant activity at the site and was occurring elsewhere on the property. Conversely, post-depositional processes (e.g. plowing, erosion, flooding) may have affected preservation and account for the low faunal percentage.

Most interestingly, the tobacco-related artifact percentage (about 21%) is extremely high. High tobacco-related artifact quantities are often associated with taverns or inns, but are usually associated with high percentage of liquor glass and faunal remains. The mid 18th century ownership by Catherine Plasay, the local innkeeper, makes this even more intriguing. Given that the site is not located within the village or near the port, however, it seems less feasible that the site represents a tavern or inn. The site may represent a male-dominant household (i.e. lots of smoking but not a lot of food preparation or tablewares). Whether these would have been enslaved, indentured workers, or overseer individuals is unclear. Typically on slave sites, one expects to find higher percentages of faunal remains, so perhaps this suggests an overseer or other male work-force occupation. A preponderance of bowls in the ceramic assemblage suggests lower economic class inhabitants that served meals focused on stews instead of individual cuts of meats plated with grains and vegetables. Site 18PR496 may have simply been a low-density dwelling, possibly occupied for a relatively short term.

Given the extent of Phase III excavations at 18PR496, it is unlikely that further field investigations would produce new historical data. There are, however, a number of possibilities for future research relating to the data recovered. For example, a more detailed faunal analysis from the site could provide more meaningful data on historic foodways. More detailed ceramic analyses , including minimum vessel counts, could provide a more thorough analysis of historic ceramic use, function, and historic consumer choices. Comparison to other site collections from the region would also be a promising avenue for future research.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00006780, 00005274, 97002239